Building Community Partnerships

Fact Sheet

The Building Community Partnerships (BCP) initiative was established to assist fusion centers and law enforcement agencies in engaging with and developing productive relationships with the critical sector and community stakeholders they serve to enable partnerships in the protection of critical infrastructure and the prevention of crime and terrorism.

The BCP initiative is a new technical assistance delivery to fusion centers launched from the successes of the former Building Communities of Trust (BCOT) initiative. The BCP has evolved from the BCOT program to address the changing needs and landscape of fusion centers and law enforcement regarding community partnerships. The BCP is a customized approach to building or expanding existing relationships with stakeholders, utilizing tailored individualized support to strengthen and improve the engagement of and partnerships with each entity's unique customer base.

Fusion centers are encouraged to conduct a self-review or assessment to identify their own focus areas where there may be opportunities to create or enhance community partnerships that would benefit from focused outreach assistance. These may be private sector businesses, public agencies, chambers of commerce, fire services, public health, emergency management, crime stoppers, or any other stakeholders or customers with whom fusion centers are interested in developing or strengthening their relationships.

The "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime can be viewed at: http://www.dhs.gov/if-you-see-something-say-something-campaign.

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INITIATIVE WAS ESTABLISHED TO ASSIST FUSION CENTERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN ENGAGING WITH AND DEVELOPING PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE CRITICAL SECTOR AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS THEY SERVE.

Community and critical infrastructure partners, local law enforcement, and fusion centers share a responsibility to address the prevention of crime and terrorism. BCP provides a customized forum to improve the coordination of crime prevention where community stakeholders and critical infrastructure partners have candid conversations with law enforcement and fusion centers on how to work together to keep communities safer and address other locally based problems.

Through the BCP initiative, fusion centers are provided with DHS-leveraged coordination of outreach to current and potential partners, assistance in all phases of the planning process, DHS-supplied subject-matter experts who deliver presentations to center-invited participants, and facilitation of roundtable discussions. The roundtable format, venue, topics, and attendees will vary based on the needs of each center and the communities it serves.

Roundtable Topics

At roundtables, DHS subject-matter experts, along with fusion center leaders, educate center-invited participants on topics such as:

- An **overview of the fusion center**, its daily operations, and how each partner can interact to share vital information on crime, terrorism, and critical incidents and learn about available training, alert notifications, and other information important to community safety.
- The center's **proactive privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties (P/CRCL) protections** in daily operations and the information the center handles, as well as DHS' support to fusion centers in P/CRCL efforts.
- **Key suspicious activity report (SAR) indicators and behaviors** established by the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative (NSI).

Background

The BCP initiative is administered by the NSI—a program that provides law enforcement with a capacity for gathering, documenting, processing, analyzing, and sharing suspicious activity reports about behaviors that have a potential nexus to terrorism.[1] The NSI recognizes that each community partner has an important role in preventing crime and terrorism and uses the concept of community policing to build trust and cooperation to share information with state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) law enforcement officers.

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IS A CUSTOMIZED APPROACH TO BUILDING OR EXPANDING EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAKEHOLDERS, UTILIZING TAILORED INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE ENGAGEMENT OF AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH EACH ENTITY'S UNIQUE CUSTOMER BASE.

1 This initiative was initially developed in partnership with the Office of the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; and the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.